

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is inadequate passenger demand between Delhi and Silchar to warrant the introduction of a daily flight on this sector.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Public Distribution System

1758. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :  
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government regarding exclusion of Income Tax payers from the public distribution system.

(b) if so, the salient features thereof.

(c) whether the Government have received any memoranda or complaints in this regard.

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) to (e). The Government proposes to streamline the Public Distribution System (PDS) with its focus on the poor. The details are being worked out in consultation with the States/UTs and in the light of views that may be received on the subject.

[English]

#### Labour Courts in Assam

1759. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Labour Courts with their locations functioning in Assam;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up such courts in every district of the State in view of the huge labour force in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) As per the information received from the Government of Assam there are two Labour Courts one each at Guwahati and Dibrugarh, are functioning in the State of Assam.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Meeting of Trade Unions with P.M.

1760. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether representatives of various Trade Unions in the country met the Prime Minister recently;

(b) if so, the outcome of the meeting; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The Prime Minister met representatives of the Central Trade Union Organisations on 24th June, 1996 to hear the views of the Trade Unions on matters concerning the workers such as (i) labour protection and social security for agricultural labour, (ii) Uniform minimum wage, (iii) recognition of trade unions based on secret ballot, (iv) elimination of child labour, (v) amendments to Industrial Disputes and Trade Union Acts etc. The trade union leaders stressed the need for creating a proper and congenial atmosphere for maintaining industrial harmony in the country. They laid emphasis on taking measures for protection and generation of employment and employment benefits, review of the functioning of BIFR, revival of NTC mills, comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers, comprehensive measures for elimination of child labour etc. The suggestions made by the Trade Union Leaders have been noted and steps have been taken for more effective enforcement of labour welfare measures, for intensification of labour inspections and strengthening of the 'labour enforcement machinery.

#### Revision of Scheme for Foreign Tourists

1761. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is planning to revise the scheme for foreign tourists.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the highlights of the proposed scheme; and

(d) the foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d). With a view to attracting foreign tourists to India, the Department of Tourism adopts an overseas marketing strategy which is aimed at bringing maximum number of foreign tourists to the country. This is done by way of identifying thrust markets as also new segments.

The marketing strategy is flexible and takes into account changes taking place in the market situation.

from time to time. It is reviewed each year and is adopted to the need of the market with suitable modifications.

During the year 1995-96, foreign exchange worth Rs. 9.185.88 crores was earned. It is estimated that during 1996-97 the country would earn foreign exchange worth Rs. 10.607 crores.

#### Production of Zinc and Lead

1762. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the position of production of zinc and lead during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the production of these products is not sufficient to meet the demand;

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the production;

(d) whether the Hindustan Zinc Limited is one of the leading company dealing with the above production;

(e) if so, the performance of the company during the last three years;

(f) whether Hindustan Zinc Limited proposes to export these products; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (e). The annual estimated demand, total production of primary zinc and lead metals in the country and the production of M/s Hindustan Zinc Limited (given in brackets), the leading public sector producer of these products, during the last three years is as follows :

Year	Unit Tonnes			
	Zinc		Lead	
	Demand	Production	Demand	Production
1	2	3	4	5
1993-94	158000	143962 (119879)	73000	35179 (25299)

	Effective from	Common	PDS Fine	(Rs. in quintal)			
				Super Fine	Common	RPDS Fine	Super Fine
Rice	11.1.93	437	497	518	387	447	468
	01.2.94	537	617	648	487	567	598

		PDS	RPDS	Imported edible oil	(Rs. per ton)	
					Bulk	15 kg tin
Wheat	28.12.91	280	230			
	11.01.93	330	280		04.01.92	22000
	01.02.94	402	352		21.07.94	24000
						25000
						27000

1	2	3	4	5
1994-95	192000	148424 (119807)	75000	44993 (34476)
1995-96	202000	141374 (115464)	80000	40316 (27848)

The gap between demand and primary production has been met by imports and recycling of scrap, secondaries etc. Also, M/s Hindustan Zinc Limited in the public sector and M/s Binani Zinc Limited in the private sector have plans for expansion of their production capacities for zinc metal and M/s Indian Lead Limited in the private sector for lead metal.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

#### PDS Issue Prices

1763. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of hike in issue prices of Public Distribution System during the last three years;

(b) the date on which the above prices were hiked last

(c) whether the Government are considering to increase further the above prices;

(d) if so, the details thereof

(e) the time by which such hike is likely to be effective;

(f) whether the Government have a consensus on the issue; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). The details of Central Issue Price during the last three years are as under :